

THE SCROLL

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O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL | SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

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School ready to host state band concert

Liesel Julsrud
Activities Co-Editor

O'Gorman High School is set to host the 2015 High School All-State Band concert. Approximately 175 high school musicians from South Dakota will gather under the direction of guest conductors Dr. Mike Bankhead from Utah State University and Dr. Mark Heidel from the University of Iowa.

The students are equally divided into two bands: the Clark Band and the Lewis Band. Bankhead will conduct the Clark Band, while Heidel conducts the Lewis Band. Rehearsals begin the evening of Thursday, March 26.

O'Gorman Band Director Ben Koch says the hosting process is going fairly well. "Right now, all of the auditions are done. Now it is a matter of getting the proper equipment repaired to accommodate the large group of students," said Koch.

In terms of planning, it's reaching the stages of the home stretch to prepare both the band room and Lorang Theatre to be rehearsal spaces.

"It should be a good experience for both students and directors," said Koch.

The South Dakota Intercollegiate Band will be rehearsing

"This is a pretty big event in the band world."
- Ben Koch

earlier in the week and perform for the students on Friday morning.

Lincoln High School senior band member, Evan Krebs, has made All-State Band for all four years of high school and has additionally made first chair every one of those years.

"It has been surreal, and it goes to show that hard work does pay off," said Krebs. "The fact that All-State is being held at O'Gorman is fantastic, because the performance space is amazing. Aside from the Mary W. Sommervold Hall, the Lorang Theatre is the best auditorium in town."

Krebs also expresses enthusiasm for the conductors, especially Dr. Mike Bankhead due to the fact that he has conducted military bands, and he has conducted throughout all 50 states.

"This is a pretty big event for the band world," said Koch.

O'Gorman is set to host the event again in two years.

The All-State Band Grand Concert will be held on Saturday, March 28 at 7 p.m. in the Lorang Theatre.



THE KNIGHT LEGEND

The O'Gorman student body enjoyed dancing and spending time with friends at the annual Winter Formal. Formal was held on Feb. 15 at The District.

Increases in influenza, other viruses lead to big concerns

Cheyenne Chontos
Editor-in-Chief

With an increase in influenza activity and an outbreak of the measles virus nationwide, many questions about vaccinations have arisen. The two primary concerns are whether vaccinations are effective and whether they are safe.

Pediatrician Christiane Maroun, MD said that it is usually better to get vaccinations than to not.

"Vaccines give us immunities

"I'd like to reassure people that vaccines are safe and very effective."

- Dr. Christiane Maroun

to diseases that could harm or even kill us," said Maroun. "I'd like to reassure people that vaccines are safe and very effective."

However, there are a few legitimate reasons not to get a vac-

cination. These include if someone is allergic to the vaccine or if someone has an immunodeficiency. This makes it even more important for those who can receive vaccines to get them, so that diseases and viruses are not given to those who cannot get a vaccination.

"Vaccinations are important because they prevent harmful contagions from spreading," said senior Matt Moe.

Seniors are urged to update all of their immunizations before college.

Membership, training changes set to increase club awareness, efficiency

Liesel Julsrud
Activities Co-Editor

O'Gorman High School's Peer Support Group, directed by Mrs. Jane Bradfield and Mrs. Angela Lynch, has been undergoing changes with how the group operates to further connect with its students.

The main goal intended with the changes is to increase awareness of the group and its purpose.

Peer Support Group has based itself as a tool for students to contact a resource with any troubles occurring inside or outside school walls. The group stands out in the fact that it is designed to be student to student contact, so a

person that is conflicted has the ability to be comfortable when talking about the situation.

The first change being made is within the membership process. "We are moving from members being selected by their peers to an application process, much like the Student Ambassadors," said Mrs. Bradfield.

The number of members in the group will be slimmed down from about 40 to 16-20.

Peer Support Group members will also enter a training process in order to make them better resources for their peers. After their training, the members will be part of Student Orientation day in the fall with tie-dyed shirts for

them to be visible to other students.

In terms of activities to better incorporate the group into the school, Bradfield and Lynch have begun to work with the counseling office to plan activities and speakers.

"May is mental health month, and our group is planning some activities for the last week of April and the first week of May," said Bradfield. "Peer Support Group will also be involved with the monthly speaker that Mrs. Jones in the Counseling Office coordinates."

The Peer Support Group will be conducting the application and interview process in April.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Seniors Hannah Beacom and Reece Mimmack tell future O'Gorman students about Peer Support Group at the Activities Fair.

Fundraising event promotes creative spirit, compassion

Nate Sotebeer
Staff Writer

Every year the Campus Ministry department puts on a soup supper fundraising event for Lent called Empty Bowls. Customers have the option of purchasing a clay bowl made by O’Gorman students with their meal.

The bowls give students an opportunity to use their artistic talents for community service.

“Anytime students and faculty get a chance to do service activities I think it’s great,” said art teacher Gary Siska.

This event allows students in the Art Club and pottery classes to make bowls for the project, and receives a positive response from many students around the school.

“I enjoy making things out of clay for other people,” said senior Derek Domangue. “It brings joy and happiness in my life to help them.”

Domangue is not the only student who enjoys this service opportunity, as many students use time inside and outside of class

to work on this project.

“Usually the student response is overwhelming,” said Siska. “It’s usually one of the biggest Art Club meetings we have all year.”

Making the bowls is a difficult and long process, which contributes to the time commitment from those who participate in the project. Timing on the Art Club meeting varies from year to year, beginning in December or January.

“First you have to design the piece, and then build it. Then you

need to fire it and glaze it, then fire it again,” said Siska. “Each step may not take too long itself but you also need to wait for other

things like drying.”

Students have fun throughout the process of making their bowls, but the end purpose is never forgotten.

“The best part about it is being able to help those in need,” said Domangue.

This year Empty Bowls will be held on March 11. Students are invited to sign up to volunteer for the event.

“The best part about [Empty Bowls] is being able to help those in need.”
- Derek Domangue



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lamb Radio celebrates at its official Sioux Falls Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting. Lamb Radio is broadcasted on 104.3 for Sioux Falls listeners.

Faith-based radio station spreads message of love, offers variety of programs, shows

Samantha Lenz
Opinion Editor

Lamb Radio is faith-based radio station that broadcasts O’Gorman high school athletics. These activities include football, volleyball and girls and boys basketball games, but the network has plans to expand to other activities in the future.

“We broadcast O’Gorman events because we believe it is a great service to the Catholic community at large and non-Catholics alike,” said Kevin Culhane, president of Lamb Catho-

lic Radio Network. “Sometimes God uses our children or our other interests to bring us closer to him.”

They also have a video stream on thier website.

“This gives parents, grandparents, and friends that can’t go to the games an opportunity to support their student anyway,” said Culhane.

Lamb Radio is available 24/7-365 days a year to South Dakota listeners. The format is a mix of live and interactive Catholic talk radio featuring many of the top Catholic national air talent

in the country.

“Lamb Catholic Radio’s message is Jesus Christ’s message of love, forgiveness, peace and hope for an eternal life with Christ in heaven forever,” said Culhane.

The show produces several of their own local shows like “Let’s Talk Mental Health” with Dr. Marcie Moran, “Ignition” with Dr. Chris Burgwald and Fr. Andrew Dickinson, “Morning Star” with Msgr. Charles Mangano, and they broadcast “Divine Mercy Chaplet” with Bishop Paul Swain.

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All editorials are the sole opinion of the writer and do not necessarily represent the beliefs of the O’Gorman faculty, administration or the Knight Scroll.

Campus Ministry Events and Christian Service

Endow and Guy’s Group every Thursday morning

March 10 - Campus Ministry Core Team meeting

March 11 - Empty Bowls fundraiser

March 18 - FCA

March 24 - Campus Ministry Core Team meeting

March 24 - Students for Life

March 25 - All School Reconciliation

April 2 - Awareness Day



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Musical tech sets stage for *West Side Story*

Shreya Chandran
Activities Co-Editor

The technical side of the musical has always been a way to bring the story to life and this year's spring musical, *West Side Story*, looks to be no different.

"I have been involved in the spring musical before and it's always really cool to watch how the musical tech can make the musical come alive," said junior Emmy Bear.

The tech for musical has been a way to grow and learn for students.

"I love watching the students evolve throughout their four years of doing tech," said technical director Mr. Humke. "I like to let the students take ownership of the projects they are working on. All of the sets we have created in the last 15 years have been created by tech students with only a little bit of guidance from me." They have created nearly 60 sets during this time.

As a techie students are able to learn valuable skills that will help them even after high school.

"Being in tech definitely has its advantages," said senior Kimberly Schulte. "For example, I would probably never have used

power tools if I had not been in tech. But tech also improves your ability to work with other people. Many projects are not a one man job, so you have to be willing to work with others."

Being involved in tech has also led to some memorable moments. "Freshman year, when we put

"It's fun to watch the show be pulled together from off stage."

-Kimberly Schulte

on *Music Man*, we made the most rickety looking bleachers," said Schulte. "I swore they were going to fall apart the moment someone stepped on them, but they managed to hold up somehow. During *Drowsy Chaperone* we also had a huge airplane we had to maneuver around for the show so that led to some pretty interesting problem solving, space-wise."

This year's show has built up some excitement as well.

"I love *West Side Story*. I haven't been told the set plans yet, but I'm still super excited. It's also fun to watch the show be pulled together from off stage," said



ABBY BAKA / KNIGHT SCROLL

Senior Kimberly Schulte builds sets for the musical. The musical tech crew began working on Feb. 9.

Schulte.

This year's plans include building many rolling platforms, painting, hanging drops from battens, aiming and programming lights, operating sound system and props organization.

"We will get to create visually

stunning scenes in the great new space of Lorang Theater, transforming it into New York City in the '50s," said Humke.

The only thing the musical tech lacks, said Schulte, is more people to help out.

"I think tech is a program that

doesn't get very much promotion, and our numbers are dwindling. It's hard to build a cool set when you only have five people on the crew. So, if anyone is interested, they should come. It's a great way to get involved in theater."

Oral Interp finishes season with qualifying tournament

Grace Wallin
Sports Editor

Oral Interp has had a busy but successful schedule in the previous months. Despite competing in a tournament almost every weekend, the team remains focused and excited for each competition.

A lot of work goes into making an Oral Interp piece. Interpers must read through a script, cut it, then begin memorizing and perfecting the piece.

"You have to make the character you play believable, think about how you say a line, what your facial expressions are going to be, and you need to add the emotions you would be feeling in the piece," said junior Sean Miles. "It takes time with the character you play, some take more work and are a process, but it develops as you go along."

This year the O'Gorman Oral Interp team has had a lot of success in various tourna-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Interp Team competed at Silver Bowl on Jan. 16 and 17.

ments, receiving numerous first places and placing in duo, drama and oratory. Most recently oral interp competed in Marshall, Minn., where the team received recognition across all levels.

Not only is the Oral Interp team being recognized for their hard work and preparation, but they are also gaining important life skills that will assist them

later in life.

"Oral Interp enhances speaking skills and the ability to present for others," said junior Emmy Bear. "I think it will help a lot with future job interviews and just general skills when speaking to people."

The interpers competed in the national qualifier on Feb. 27.

Debaters compete in national qualifier, prep for state tourney

Shreya Chandran
Activities Co-Editor

The debate team has had several changes this year, from a new assistant coach to an influx of new debaters.

"I didn't know what to expect when we started this year because we lost a lot of outstanding debaters through graduation but this has been an outstanding year for the O'Gorman debate team," said debate coach Bob Stevens.

The debate team prepares cases and has debate practice every Monday through Thursday.

"I know all the hard work is worth it," said junior Sean Downey.

This effort has led the team to receive recognition at a majority of the tournaments they attend.

"When we go to a tournament, we have the potential to place in every event," said Stevens. "We have had place win-

ners at every tournament that we have competed in this year and at most tournaments; our list of place winners has been very impressive."

Aside from the trophies, debaters also receive skills that will help them in the future.

"I firmly believe that students who participate in debate learn skills that will help them with their other academic subjects while at O'Gorman and will stay with them for a lifetime," said Stevens.

"I use my experience in debate when I research for an essay or when I give a speech," said sophomore Olivia Boyum.

Stevens said he owes all their success to his assistant coaches and his hardworking students.

"We have had a great season," said Stevens. Students competed in the national qualifier in February, and are competing in the state tournament this weekend.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Children take off from the starting line during the Leprechaun Fun Run. The Shamrock Run and Leprechaun Fun Run will take place on March 28.

Booster club raises money through annual fun run

Samantha Lenz
Opinion Editor

The Sioux Falls Catholic Schools is hosting the 14th annual Shamrock Run and seventh annual Leprechaun Fun Run. This event is sponsored by O'Gorman High School Athletic Booster Club to raise money for Knights athletics. Both races are a major source of funds for the committee rising over \$11,000.

"Last year we welcomed over 300 runners and this year we are hoping to get closer to 400," said Maren Jensen.

The Shamrock Run is open to all ages and skill levels who want to run or walk. There will be two different distances including a competitive 5k road race or the 2 mile fun run. There will be prizes awarded to top

finishers in age categories in the 5k race.

The Leprechaun Fun Run is for elementary age students and younger. There will be three different distance events, one

"It's such a family-friendly event that has a race for everyone at every skill level."
- Maren Jensen

fourth, one half or one mile fun run. Medals will be given to all participants.

"There are three different distances available for kids to run, right on the O'Gorman track, so it makes it very easy

for even young children to get involved," said Jensen.

In both races participants will receive a cotton t-shirt when registered by March 11, though a t-shirt is not guaranteed after this date.

O'Gorman High School will be hosting both of the events starting at 10 a.m. on Sat., March 28 at McEneaney Field.

Those who have a desire to participate can register for either the Shamrock Run or the Leprechaun Fun Run online.

After the race, all participants are invited to a chili feed in the O'Gorman High School cafeteria.

"It's such a family-friendly event that has a race for everyone at every skill level," said Jensen.

Lady Knights on mission for state title

Grace Wallin
Sports Editor

The O'Gorman Lady Knights have continued their impressive winning streak through the second half of the season with their recent wins over school rivals Lincoln and Roosevelt. After suffering their only loss of the season to cross-town rival Washington, the Lady Knights are on a fast track to a state tournament berth.

On Jan. 30 the Lady Knights closed a nail biter against Sioux Falls Lincoln with a close 63-60 victory.

"I think we did really well with getting the ball inside and rebounding," said junior Rachel Townsend. "We had an obvious size advantage and I think we really took advantage of it." Townsend finished the game with 12 points including the last two points at the foul line, putting the Lady Knights up by three in the last 5 seconds of the game.

The Lady Knights went on the next weekend to defeat the Washington warriors 67 to 49. Senior Jess Mieras led the way with 21 points closely followed by junior Katie Messler with 20.

On Feb. 10 the Lady Knights took on Roosevelt at the Sioux Falls Premier Center. Senior Dalee Stene added 10 points, five assists and four steals to help put the Knights up by five for a final score of 55-50.

Most recently the Lady Knights travelled to Mitchell,



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Senior Dalee Stene prepares to shoot a free throw. The Lady Knights are undefeated.

gaining a win against the Kernels with a 32 point margin of victory. The Lady Knights showcased their strong defensive game as they forced 22 turnovers from the Kernels.

"We have been taking each team one at a time," said senior Kate Cartwright. "Our main goal is to win state. We know that all of this work we've put in and all the wins we have accomplished won't mean anything if we can't make it to our end goal."

New coach leads team to state, national competitions

Cheyenne Chontos
Editor-in-Chief

Led by new coach, Chris Isaacson, the O'Gorman Knights powerlifting team will be finishing up the season this month. Those who qualify will compete at the State Meet in Madison on March 6 and nationals on March 29 in Milwaukee, Wis.

"I would like to see us win state for the fourth year in a row," said Isaacson. "This is my first year coaching, taking over for Mr. Whiting. He has built a strong powerlifting program at O'Gorman, and it is my intention to continue that tradition. Win-

ning the state meet would mean a lot."

O'Gorman hosted the O'Gorman Powerlifting Meet on Jan. 31 and took home first place in the process.

The team is now preparing for state and nationals. They have four workouts posted for each week, though the weight-room is open Monday-Friday. Isaacson said that practice usually runs until 5:30 or 6 p.m. This requires dedication from the members of the team.

"We have strong senior leadership coupled with a large number of motivated underclassmen," said Isaacson.

One powerlifter is training especially hard as he prepares to go off to the World Bench Press Championship this May. This is senior Easton Schuster's second time going to Worlds. Last year it was hosted in Denmark, where Schuster won fourth place.

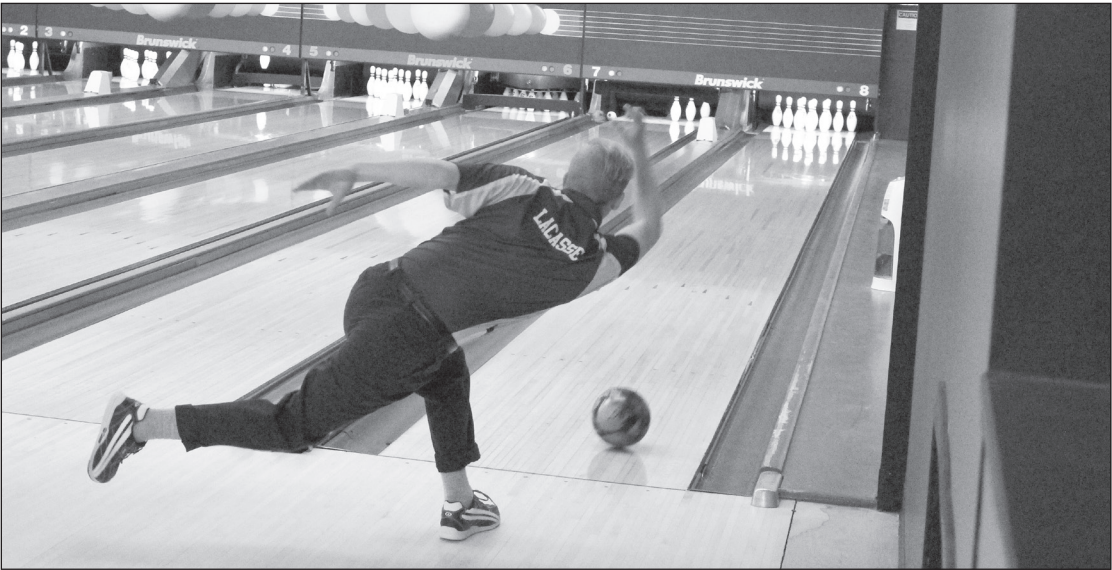
"Powerlifting is a great sport," said Schuster. "I love that it's really competitive. You also get to meet a lot of different people through it and there's a definite sense of camaraderie, which is another reason I love the sport."

The O'Gorman Knight powerlifting team hopes to end the season strong at nationals. Nationals will take place March 29.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Senior Easton Schuster lifts during the O'Gorman Powerlifting Meet on Jan. 31. Schuster will compete at nationals in March.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Senior Sam Lacasse rolls a strike in the Knight’s win over Dell Rapids. Lacasse led the team with a 579 series and a high game of 222.

Bowling team continues successful season with high hopes for state tournament

Abby Baka
Entertainment Editor

While the boys bowling team is struggling to recover after losing six seniors last season, the girls team is off to a strong start. The teams will compete in a tournament in Sioux Falls and

another in Lincoln, Neb. The season will culminate with the state tournament in Sioux Falls on Friday, Feb. 27 at Sport Bowl. “I think both teams have a good chance at the state tournament,” said girls team captain Emily Runge. “The girls are doing amazing right now,” said boys team captain Sam Lacasse. “I think they have a really good chance at state. As for the boys, if we keep working hard, and do our jobs, we have good chances.” The teams practice at Empire Bowl every Monday and Thursday after school, and compete at meets every Friday at 4:00. Meets are open to the public.

Knights hoping to close season on winning note

Samantha Lenz
Opinion Editor

The O’Gorman Knights basketball team is sitting at the number one seed in their district. At press time, the Knights were 14-6. With O’Gorman sitting at the number one seed in their district, O’Gorman will host throughout the district tournament. “The season is going well,” said coach Derek Robey. “For the most part I believe we are playing well night in and night out and generally speaking people are excited about the progress and seem excited for this team and what we can still accomplish.” The Knights have only lost to the Lincoln Patriots, Yankton Gazelles, Pierre Governors and Washington Warriors from the state of South Dakota. “We dropped a couple games

we felt like we should have won, but there are always games that we won and quite frankly could have lost,” said Robey. In the weeks that follow, the Knights will begin to prepare for the district tournament by improving their defensive concepts. “In order for us to be where we want to be in March, we will have to get better defensively,” said Robey. “The teams that are successful defend. If we defend like we are capable of defending, I believe we are as good as anyone out there.” The Knights will prepare to play against their biggest rival the Roosevelt Rough Riders, a Sioux Falls team in their district. “I’m not sure if we will have to play them again or not, but if we do match up against them, it is typically a game that will go down to the wire,” said Robey.



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Audiences will connect with heroine in new novel

Cheyenne Chontos
Editor-in-Chief

On Jan. 6 author Katie Coyle released her debut novel, *Vivian Apple at the End of the World*. This post-apocalyptic novel has a complex plot that will thrill audiences.

According to Beaton Frick and the Church of America, the world is going to end, and it's going to end soon. The only people that will be saved and enter into heaven are true Believers – devout members of the Church of America.

Despite her parents' recent conversion into the church, 16-year-old Vivian Apple has never believed in Frick or the Church of America.

However, after returning home the day after the supposed Rapture, Vivian finds her parents missing and two perfectly parent-sized holes in the ceiling. Now she's not sure what she believes anymore, but she is determined to find out what happened to her parents.

With the help of friends, Vivian begins a dangerous trek across the United States. When they finally reach California, the group discovers shocking truths about their families and exactly how far the Church of America is willing to go.

Released Jan. 6, 2015, *Vivian Apple at the End of the World* is a book readers will be thinking about long after they finish the last page. Coyle is a fantastic writer; not only are readers drawn in from the first page, but she keeps her audience entertained and on the edge of their seats throughout the entire novel.

While the writing and plot are excellent, the real gem of the novel is unquestionably the characters. Vivian Apple is an excellent female character, one that readers will readily cheer on.

As an author, one of Coyle's strengths is being able to make her characters so human. For example, although Vivian can be extremely kind and brave, she is at times selfish and cowardly.

Her friend Harp deals with the loss of her brother through alcohol and drugs, but stays with Vivian even when she could stay at a safe-house.

Even Beaton Frick, the man behind the chaos, isn't purely evil. These characters will make *Vivian Apple at the End of the World* a favorite for readers for years.

Knight becomes prince

Abby Baka
Entertainment Editor

Austin Nelson, O'Gorman alumnus and son of English teacher Mr. Scott Nelson, is making dreams come true. He has recently been hired full-time at Disney World as a character performer.

Austin is "friends" with Goofy, Tigger, Prince Eric and Prince Charming. This means that he portrays these characters in the Disney World parks. He will soon begin training to portray Flynn Rider from *Tangled* as well.

Austin began working for Disney when he joined the Disney College Program in 2010. His first job was at the Polynesian Village Resort's Capt. Cook's restaurant. He worked at Disney World for a semester before returning to school at SDSU. It did not take long for him to realize that he belonged at Disney. He was back in Florida by January of 2014. He worked at the Fast Pass kiosks and as a character attendant.

He attended random auditions in an attempt to be hired as a character performer. At an audition for sculpted characters—any character that wears fur and a sculpted mask—he was selected not only to play Goofy and Tigger, but also to play the characters of Prince Charming, Prince Eric and Flynn Rider.

"I went to six auditions before I was finally cast," said Austin. "We'll never understand casting. You never know what they want. It's about being in the



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Austin Nelson portrays *Cinderella's* Prince Charming at Disney World. Nelson also portrays Tigger, Snoopy, and *The Little Mermaid's* Prince Eric.

right place at the right time."

Nelson loves his new job. "It's the only place in the world where you can get paid to give hugs and sign autographs."

He enjoys interacting with children and adults from all over the world, especially those with disabilities. "One time, while playing Tigger, I met a woman in a wheelchair," said Austin. "She said 'I lost my bounce years ago.' Tigger replied, 'You will always be able to bounce in your heart.'" He has also had touching interactions with children with disabilities such as blindness and Down Syndrome.

"We're just glorified mascots, but these characters mean something in these people's lives. You can't make that magic anywhere

else," said Austin.

Austin can get into any Disney Park in the world, with the exception of Tokyo Disney, for free. He can also get free passes for friends and family.

Still, the job has its drawbacks. Character performers work for eight to twelve hours at a time, taking seven thirty-five minute shifts with breaks in between. "Sometimes I work from 2:00 to 11:00pm, and am back to work at 5:00 the next morning," said Austin.

The costumes can be incredibly hot. "Performers lose as many as 20 to 25 pounds just wearing the costumes," said Austin.

Austin inherited his love of Disney from his father, O'Gorman English teacher Scott

Nelson.

"He taught us to love Disney. We visited Disney World every few years as a kid and watched the movies on repeat. We have a Mickey Mouse themed bathroom at home," said Austin.

Mr. Nelson couldn't be prouder. "I'm living vicariously through my son," he said. "I never thought it would happen to anyone I knew."

Austin graduated from O'Gorman in 2009. While in high school he gained performance experience by performing in the musical all four years.

"He's Mr. Showmanship," said Mr. Nelson. "He could sell anything to anyone. Austin is caring and great with kids. It's the perfect opportunity for him."

House of Cards fans binge-watch eagerly awaited third season

Liesel Julsrud
Activities Co-Editor

House of Cards series fans have long awaited the third season release on Feb. 27. The hit Netflix series has captivated audiences nationwide and beyond due to its elaborate plot and award-winning direction.

House of Cards has become the first online-only web television series to receive major awards, after receiving nine Emmy nominations and four Golden Globe nominations in its first season alone. Along with two wins for Best Actress in a Drama Series going to Robin Wright, the show received six awards for demonstrating excellence among the directors and cast.

Recently, the show received 13 Primetime Emmy nominations, along with three nominations for both Golden Globes Awards and the Screen Actors Guild Awards for its second season. Kevin Spacey, who plays politician Frank Underwood, took home Best Actor in a Television Series-Drama at both the Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild

Awards.

Nearly one year after season two was released, season three was long awaited. And for those that were lucky, Netflix experienced an accidental leak of the show's episodes two weeks before the expected release date.

House of Cards is highly popular among students. "HOC is appealing not only because it's filled with suspense, amazing acting, and a great storyline, but also because it is a highly sophisticated show," said senior Andrew Mohama. "This is what separates the show from the other shows that people watch just because they are entertaining."

Mohama went on to say that season two left viewers dying to know what happens next, which added to the desire to binge watch it.

"It is interesting seeing happens next because it is fictitious yet an entirely plausible dark side of Washington," said junior Zach Shaw.

Not only has the show been popular among students but faculty as well. "The



PRESS PHOTO / NETFLIX ORIGINAL SERIES

Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright play husband and wife in *House of Cards*.

show dealt with politics which intrigued me," said history teacher Jeff Gordon. "It was initially recommended to me by others and I started watching it more after starting."

Netflix is now streaming all episodes of the third season, along with the first and second seasons.

"If you have not watched *House of Cards*, please reconsider your priorities," said Mohama.

Protect yourself: get vaccinated

Cheyenne Chontos
Editor-In-Chief

Vaccinations are, without a doubt, one of the most controversial topics out there. Pretty much every time you talk to someone or log onto social media you'll get an earful of someone's opinion on the topic. In case you're not sick of that yet, here's mine.

Typically when people rationalize not giving their children vaccinations or not getting vaccinated themselves, they bring up one or a number of these reasons: vaccines aren't safe, there's no need for them anymore and they're not effective.

One popular myth that usually scares people away from getting vaccinations is that they

cause autism. However, this has been disproven more times than I can count.

In 2013 the Journal of Pediatrics published a study that showed there was no link between vaccinations and autism. People with autism also received no more vaccinations than those without autism.

In fact, Rob Ring, Chief Science Officer for Autism Speaks clearly stated that there is no link between vaccinations and autism and that all children who are able to should be fully vaccinated.

Of course, I totally understand if you're still apprehensive. You just never know.

Some also claim that we have no need for vaccines in our modern-day society. We have elimi-

nated or nearly eliminated all of the possible diseases that could be prevented by vaccinations.

There's obviously no vaccination for that.

Now for those complaining that vaccinations, particularly flu vaccinations, are ineffective, it is true that even if you get the flu shot you might still get the flu. However, your risk for serious complications and hospitalization decreases dramatically.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reported that there was a 71 percent reduction in flu-related hospitalizations among adults of all ages for those who got flu vaccinations. They also reported that one death was prevented for every 4,000 people vaccinated against the flu.

The CDC also reported that the flu vaccination also has been shown to be associated with re-

duced hospitalizations among people with chronic diseases. The reduction in hospitalizations for people with diabetes was 79 percent and 52 percent for people with chronic lung disease.

Still, is going to all that trouble of making an appointment and getting a shot really worth it?

And seniors, I know a lot of you are annoyed that you have to update your vaccinations before you go to college next year, and I get that. It's not like you'll be living in a building full of other young adults, where diseases could easily be spread.

Your parents and doctors and the CDC are obviously just being overprotective. Forget the vaccinations, who needs them anyway?



Cheyenne Chontos

Photo Survey

“What is your favorite book you’ve read in school?”



“A Tale of Two Cities”
- Mr. Gordon



“To Kill A Mockingbird”
- Alivia Wuestewald



“The Road”
- Aaron Steele



“A Long Way Gone”
- Holly Nelson



“Animal Farm”
- John Walker



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